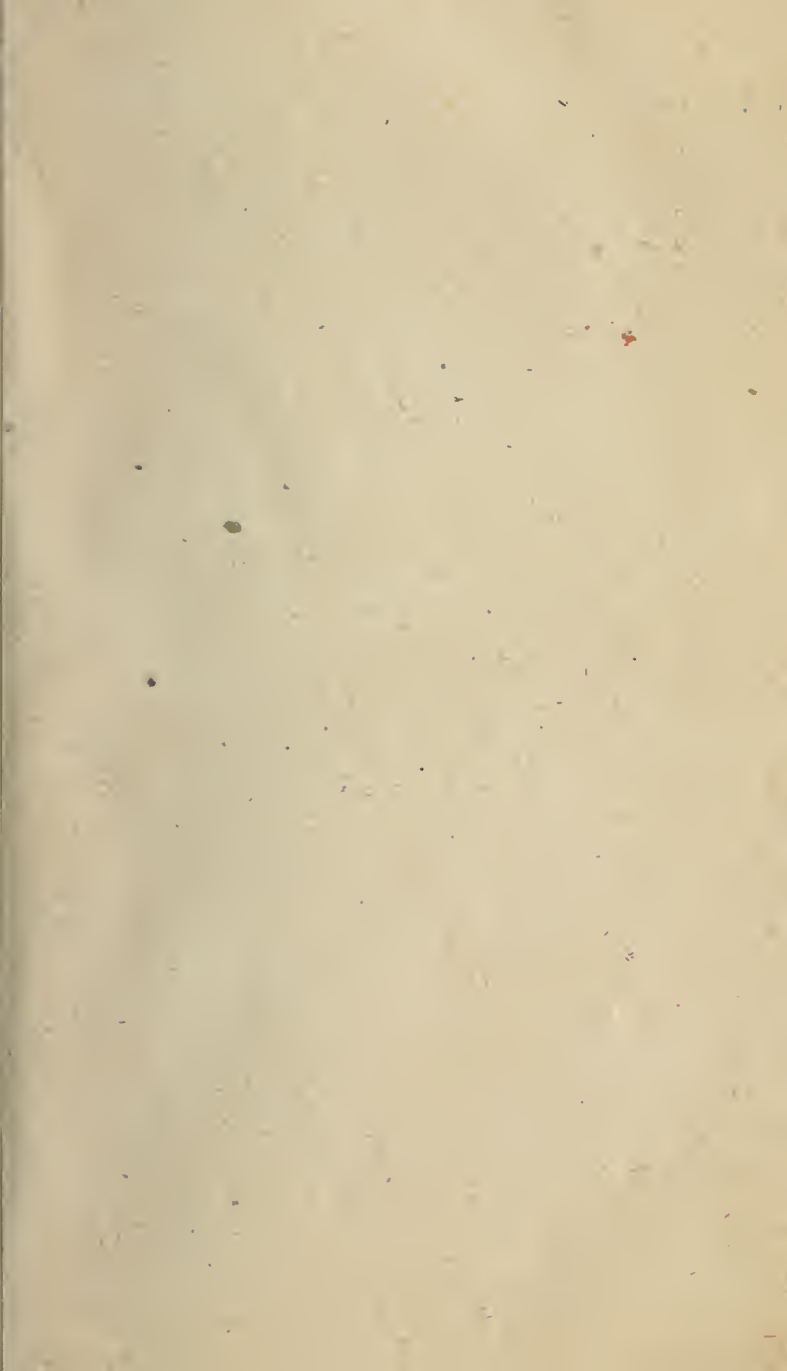


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REMARKS
UPON
Mr. *WEBBER's*
SCHEME
AND THE
DRAPER's
PAMPHLET.

L O N D O N :

Sold by *J. Roberts* in *Warwick-Lane*, 1741,
(Price Six-pence.)

1741 R 95

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R E M A R K S

U P O N

Mr. *Webber's* SCHEME, &c.

SOME Months since a Pamphlet was published, Intituled, *The Consequences of Trade, as to the Wealth and Strength of any Nation, &c.* By a Draper of London.

When I first turned over this Performance, I saw it was a virulent declamatory Libel against his Majesty, his Servants, and the Parliament; but aimed particularly at one Person as usual: I was not at all surpriz'd at this Piece, because almost every Day produces one or more of the same Kind; but having been lately informed that this Pamphlet had, before it was known in Town, been dispers'd with the utmost Industry amongst all Sorts of People all over the Country, I have taken the Trouble to look more narrowly into it; and being fully convinced in my

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Judg-

Judgment, that the Design of the Propagators of this incendiary Libel was, to raise an open Rebellion upon the Dissolution of the Parliament; I think myself oblig'd to discover, as far as I am able, the Intentions of these bad Persons, that we may avoid the Miseries they are endeavouring to bring upon us.

It seems odd at first Sight, that the Enemies of the Administration, against which so much Animosity is shewn, should choose so threadbare a Point, as the Running of Wool into *France*, to attack them upon; but there is Reason to believe, that it is not out of Choice that they do it, but out of Necessity. It was seen, as soon as the Parliament met, that the Grand Scheme which had been forming all the Summer, namely, to charge the Delay of the Expedition upon the Minister, as they affect to stile a certain Gentleman, would not do; after all the Assurances they had given throughout the whole Kingdom, that he should answer for that great Injury, as they call'd it, to the Nation: Being disappointed in this Project, they were forc'd to have Recourse to the popular Topick, of the ruinous Condition of the *Woollen Manufacture*. If the Cause was as good, as the Person employed to support it is desperate, they could not fail of Success; for of all the Writers I have ever seen, I do not remember his Equal. He calls himself in his Title Page, *a Draper*, but his Style shews him

him to be a Man of Letters, and either a real or a pretended *Clergyman*. I put in the latter, because it is to be hoped, that there cannot in reality be so *wicked a Wretch* in the *Habit* of a Divine ?

He calls God to witness, that he writes from full Conviction, and without any party View, when he knows he has advanced as direct Falshoods as ever the Father of Lyes (to talk in his own Strain) was the Author of.

This is evident even in his *Title Page* : but I shall let this Matter alone at present, and acquaint my Reader with what is absolutely necessary for him to be informed of, before he can be rightly instructed as to the Pamphlet we are now speaking of, which is founded upon another Pamphlet published about a Year ago : The Title of this Piece is, *A short Account of the State of our Woollen Manufacturies, from the Peace of Ryfwick to this Time : Shewing their former flourishing, and their present ruinous Condition ; and that they always flourished when France could not get our Wool, but declined in Proportion to the Quantities of Wool exported to them. To which is added, An effectual Scheme to prevent the Exportation of our Wool by an universal Registry.*

This then being the Foundation of the *Drapèr's* Superstructure, it must be examined in the first Place, the rather, because the *Drapèr* himself in all his Pamphlet, does not discover one Tittle of this wonderful *Scheme* which

which he enforces to so great a Degree upon the People : And it must be own'd, that this very Behaviour of the Writer's, casts the worst Complexion imaginable upon his Performance ; for if this Scheme was so beneficial to the Nation, if he was so fully convinc'd of its incredible Advantage, why does he not mention the least Particular about it ? The Truth is, he could not do it ; had he gone that way to work, the Poison would have carried its own Antidote along with it ; this he very well knew, for there is no Body ever so little acquainted with the Matters that this *Scheme* relates to, but must soon see its monstrous Absurdity ; and therefore the *Scheme* was to be left behind, but the *Pamphlet* was to talk of it as the best Thing in the World, and the People were to be animated to pull the Government to pieces, for they did not know what ; nay, for that, which if their Governors had offer'd to force upon them, they would justly have been looked upon as the greatest Enemies to this Kingdom that ever any Age produc'd ; this will visibly appear when I have shewn the pernicious Consequences of this monstrous Scheme in Question : Neither is it at all strange, that this Matter should prove quite contrary to what the Projector imagined ; for if I am not mistaken, he writes about what he does not in the least understand. He has been conversant many Years, he says, in the Woollen Manufacture
in

in or near *London*, so that perhaps he may very well know what belongs to the Management of Cloth in Warehouses, or at *Blackwell-Hall*, and amongst Traders in that Commodity; he may be well informed about the Exports of it, and of the Home Consumption of Woollen Goods. But how will this enable him to write about Farmers of Land in the Country, about Cloathing and Manufacturers all over the Kingdom, about Parish-Officers and Justices of the Peace, and the Business of Quarter Sessions: These are Things as different, in many respects, from the Business of a *Draper* or *Blackwell-Hall* Factor, as cultivating Vines is from the Trade of a Wine Cooper. But I will come to the *Scheme* itself, which is as follows.

A SCHEME to prevent the *Exportation of Unmanufactured WOOL.*

I. **I**T is humbly proposed, That a Registry be established in every Parish throughout *Great Britain*, and *Ireland*, &c. and that the Parish-Clerk, Tything-man or Overseer of the Poor, (either of them as shall be thought proper by Parliament) be appointed Register of each of the respective Parishes, who shall register all Wool grown in, brought in, sold out, pulled off Skins manufactured; what Stocks, and in whose Hands—Either of these Men being most fit to serve, they knowing within

within a few Sheep what any Person keeps or shears in their respective Parishes; and if altered out of the Parish, to give Permits. Charge of Registering from One Pack to any Number, if One Man's Property, to be but Two pence, and for Permit Two-pence.

II. All Sheep-masters in Hours after shearing their Sheep or Lambs, on Pain of shall repair to the Register of their Parish, and give a true Account of the Number of Fleeces, and the Weight of all their Wool to be registered to his Account, with a Duty of 5 s. *per* Pound, which is about the Value of Labour to manufacture it, and there remain chargeable till sold; and before the Property is altered, on Pain of to Buyer and Seller, repair to the Register's Office of that Parish where bought, and register it to the Buyer's Account, with the said Duty, discharging the former Proprietor; and if altered out of the Parish, to take the Register's Permit: And so from Hand to Hand, as bought or sold, till made appear it is thoroughly manufactured, and then fully discharged.

N. B. This Duty charged is never Money out of Stock to fair Traders, but charged to pin it down; which will put it out of the Power of Foreigners to tempt, or Cwlers or others to furnish them with any more unmanufactured Wool, Worsted, or Yarn from *Great Britain, Ireland, &c.*

III. All

III. All Fell-mongers, or other pulling Wool off Skins as soon as dry, shall in Manner aforesaid register the Number of Skins and Weight thereof, with the Duty as afore charged to their Account; and so from Hand to Hand, as bought or sold, till made appear thoroughly manufactured, then fully discharged.

IV. All Persons buying Pounds of Worsted or Yarn, on Pain of to Buyer and Seller, before the Property is altered, shall repair to the Register of the Parish, and register it to the Buyer's Account, with the Duty aforesaid, discharging the former Proprietor for so much; and if altered out of the Parish, take the Register's Permit; and so from Hand to Hand, as bought or sold, till made appear thoroughly manufactured, then fully discharged.

N. B. V. Whereas several Worsted and Yarn Makers for Hose, Caps and Crewils, &c. often sell it by the Ounce, it is proposed that they shall make Oath once a Quarter before the Register, and Three or more of their Parishioners who best know their Characters and Dealings, that to the best of their Knowledge all the Wool they bought that Quarter, was and is to be manufactured thoroughly in these his Majesty's Dominions; and that such Oaths so taken shall discharge the Duty aforesaid.

VI. No Foreigner, on any Pretence, if not a Subject and an Inhabitant of *Great Britain*

or *Ireland*, &c. to buy Wool, Worsted or Yarn, on Pain of Forfeiture of the said Goods, and six times the Value, such Foreigner, being convicted before the Register and three Parishioners, to be imprisoned, the Penalty to be the Prize of the Informer.

VII. Any Parishioner, paying Parish Rates, shall, on Demand, inspect the Register's Accounts; and if he does discover Fraud, report the same at the next Quarter Sessions to the Bench of Justices for that County wherein their Parish is, who shall adjudge, fine, and punish Offenders.

VIII. All Registers to give Attendance from Seven in the Morning till Twelve at Noon, and from Two till Five in the Evening, except the Hours of Service at Church; and if Neglect or Fraud is committed by the Register, or against the Registry, to be adjudged, fined and punished by the Bench of Justices, at the next Quarter Sessions, held for that County where the Offence is committed, without Lawyer or Law-suits; but the Complainant to set forth by Petition to the Bench of Justices, and the Defendant to make his Defence without Solicitor or Lawyer: No Clerks or others to extort or demand Fees on Pain of ——— This is suiting my Scheme to our Constitution, as near as I was capable; for every honest Man is willing to be judged by his Neighbours, who best know him

him in his Dealings; for therein a Man is best known.

IX. Every Register throughout *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c. in their respective Counties, under Pain of shall the second Day of each Quarter Sessions for ever, deliver in to the Bench of Justices a true Account of all Wool grown in, brought in, and pulled off Skins and Weight thereof sold out manufactured; what Stocks, and in whose Hands in each of their respective Parishes.

X. And on Pain of to the Justices of Peace in each County omitting throughout these His Majesty's Dominions every Year sending up an attested Copy of all the Registers Accounts, to the Honourable the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, the first Week of their Sitting, that they may have the Account of the Growth and Manufacture of all the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; which will set the Inspection above the Possibility of Frauds which Officers might be tempted to practise.

XI. That as many Ports be opened in *England* and *Ireland*, for Exporting or Importing Wool, Worsted, Yarn, or any Species of Woollen manufactured Goods from *Ireland*, for the Benefit of the fair Trader, as shall be thought requisite by the Wisdom of Parliament.

XII. That none but *English* Owners do freight with Wool, Worsted, Yarn, or any

Species of Woollen manufactured Goods from *Ireland*; and those Ships first to be registred before the Bench of Justices, at the Quarter Sessions for that County wherein the Parish and Abode of the Owners is, the better to know their Characters, and whether they and their Sureties Circumstance are answerable for the Obligation they enter into.

XIII That such Master of Vessel shall repair to the proper Register, on Pain of and register all the Wool, Worsted, Yarn, or Woollen manufactured Goods from *Ireland* she freights withal with a Duty of *5 s. per Pound*, charged to the Ship and Owners Account, discharging the former Proprietors; and when cleared His Majesty's Custom-house, sail as consigned, and to remain chargeable till an Account arrives from such Registers where imported; then charged to them to whom she is consigned, discharging the said Vessel, and as before, register here in *England* from Hand to Hand, as bought or sold, till it appears to be thoroughly manufactured, then fully discharged.

XIV. That an Account shall be sent, on a certain Penalty to any Register who neglects, the last Day of every Month, where such Goods were imported, to all those Registers from whence exported, the Ships, Masters, and Owners Names, with just Returns of their Bills of Lading, compared with their Books from whence exported, which will make appear if
any

any is Run, allowing Time for Performance of the Voyage. Postage free on this Affair.

XV. That any Ship missing, the Owners, Sureties, Master and Men be sued and prosecuted at His Majesty's Suit and Charge, except made plain appear she was wreckt at Sea; which if it should happen on any Shore out of His Majesty's Dominions, they shall not break Bulk; and if they cannot save the Vessel (if it can be done with Safety to their Lives) shall set Fire to her, and burn the Cargo, to prevent its falling into Foreigners Hands, on Pain of them and their Sureties being prosecuted as if illegally exporting it.

XVI. In case of War no Ship laden with Wool, Worsted, Yarn, or any Species of Woollen Manufacturies from *Ireland*, shall sail without Convoy, and obey Sailing Orders, on Pain of the Owners and Sureties being prosecuted as if illegally exporting it: For designing Men, with *French* passes, used last Wars to run into Privateers Hands; and what has been, may be again.

XVII. When three Ships or more are freighted with Wool, &c. from *Ireland*, the Cargoes registred, and cleared at his Majesty's Custom-house, the Captain stationed for Convoy, on Days Notice given, shall sail next fair Wind, on Pain of such Captain being for ever rendered incapable of serving His Majesty; and such Merchants shall recover their Damage of him by their Action at Law.

This

This Scheme, as the Reader perceives, relates to *all Great Britain and Ireland*; but as I know very little of *Ireland or North Britain*, I shall confine myself to *South Britain*: Neither is there Occasion to go any farther, because if this shall appear to be a very pernicious Scheme for the latter, it cannot but be so for the two others.

Article I.

“ It is humbly proposed, that a Registry be
 “ established in every Parish throughout *Great*
 “ *Britain and Ireland*, &c. and that the Pa-
 “ rish Clerk, Tything-man, or Overseer of
 “ the Poor (either of them as shall be thought
 “ proper by Parliament) be appointed Regi-
 “ ster of each of the respective Parishes, who
 “ shall Register all Wool grown in, brought
 “ in, sold out, pulled off Skins manufactured;
 “ what Stocks and in whose Hands——Either
 “ of these Men being most fit to serve, they
 “ knowing within a few Sheep what any Person
 “ keeps or shears in their respective Parishes;
 “ and if alter’d out of the Parish, to give
 “ Permits. Charge of Registering from one
 “ Pack to any Number, if one Man’s Proper-
 “ ty, to be but Two-pence, and for Permit
 “ Two-pence.”

By this Article it is intended that a Registry shall be established in every Parish throughout *England and Wales*, and that the Parish Clerk, Tything-man or Overseer of the Poor be ap-
 pointed

pointed the Officer to register all Wool grown in, brought in, sold out, pulled off Skins manufactured; what Stocks, and in whose Hands; and if altered out of the Parish, to give Permits. The Charge of Registering from one Pack to any Number, if one Man's Property, to be but Two-pence, and for each Permit Two-pence.

To remark upon this Article in a proper Manner, we must begin by observing, That in *England* and *Wales* there are about Ten thousand Parishes: That of those Parishes there may be about Five hundred (namely, in the chief Cities, great Market Towns, and Towns of great Trade) which will require such prodigious Numbers of *Registers* and *Permits*, that the Register's Office may be computed to be worth from 200 *l. per Annum*, to 1200 *l. per Ann.* or at a *Medium* at 600 *l. per Annum*, for each of these Five hundred Registers.

The Charge of these Officers, which must be born by the Woollen Manufacture, amounts to no less than 300 000 *l.* a Year: Let us now see what will become of the remaining Nine thousand five hundred Registers; these cannot possibly be paid by the Wool itself, because there is not Reason to believe that in these Nine thousand five hundred Parishes, all the Registers and Permits will amount to 40 *s. per Annum*, one with another: Now it cannot be imagined that
any

any Man should give up his whole Time and Labour, and be at the Charge of Pen, Ink; Paper, Books, and an Office, for 40 s. a Year: He and his Family must starve by this Means: For it is plain he must give up every Hour of his Time to this Business: He must attend (Article the 8th) from Seven in the Morning, till Twelve at Noon, and from Two till Five in the Evening; and even all Sunday, except the Hours of Church-Service; upon Pain for every Neglect of being punished by the Bench of Justices; so that in Reality he cannot be either Parish Clerk; Tything Man, or Overseer of the Poor, for each of these Offices require the Absence of the Officer frequently from his House, and going before Justices often several Miles from home about the Parish Business; which the Register can never do; for if he was not always at Hand, all Business must stand still; if he was not ready to register the Wool that is *grown in, brought in, sold out, or pulled off Skins manufactured*, and likewise to give Permits, the Persons concerned must loose their Time, and their Chapmen, and their whole Trade would be at an End.

Hence it is evident beyond all Dispute, that the Nine thousand five hundred Registers must be all appointed directly to attend upon this Business in each respective Parish, and must be paid by such Parish.

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The least that could be allowed to such an Officer for his continued Service, and Books, Pens, Ink, Paper, and travelling Charges, for going four Times a Year before the Justices, must be 40 £. which annual Charge upon the whole Number, will amount to 380,000 £. a Year, to be charged for ever upon the Land, which, together with the Sum of 300,000 £. charged besides upon the Wool, makes in the whole 680,000 £.

I believe we need not go any farther to shew the Traders in Wool and the Proprietors of Land, what Sort of a *Scheme* this is ; but they must not think this is the worst Part of it, if they do, they will find themselves greatly mistaken before they have gone through this Paper.

I cannot part with this Article about the Registers, without taking Notice, that it will be a pretty Thing for the Person who shall have the Nomination of the five hundred Officers abovementioned : This it seems has been a Matter of some Difficulty for Mr. *Webber* to obtain. We are told in p. 22. of the *Draper's Book*, That *opposed* Mr. *Webber* in this Point : But his Majesty and his Council consented that Mr. *Webber* should have the naming of the *Patentees*.

It is even said, that Mr. *Webber* has gone so far as to dispose of several of these Offices already, and to be sure not without valuable

By this Article, all Farmers that breed any Sheep, or have any Sheep at Shearing Time, shall within a few Hours, upon the Pain of paying a Sum to be ascertained by the Parliament, repair to the Register, and give a true Account of all his Wool to be registred to HIS ACCOUNT WITH A DUTY OF FIVE SHILLINGS PER POUND, and there remain chargeable till sold : And before the Property is altered, that is, before the Wool is delivered to the Buyer, both Seller and Buyer, under another Penalty, shall go before the Register, and register it to the Buyer's Account, with the said Duty of Five Shillings *per* Pound, and if altered out of the Parish, to take the Register's Permit, and so from Hand to Hand, as often as it is bought and sold, till it is made appear that it is thoroughly manufactured.

All Fellmongers, by the next Article, are to pursue the same Steps with the Wool that comes to their Hands, under the same Duty of five Shillings *per* Pound, and the same Penalties for Neglect or Refusal to comply with the Orders abovementioned.

Now without observing what infinite Trouble and Expence will be occasioned by complying with the Rule abovementioned, I shall only take Notice, that this one Thing of making *Farmers* and all *Dealers* in Wool whatsoever indebted to the Crown or Publick, will absolutely ruin all their Credit with

“ Parish, and register it to the Buyers Ac-
 “ count, with the Duty aforesaid, discharging
 “ the former Proprietor for so much : And if
 “ altered out of the Parish, take the Re-
 “ gister's Permit ; and so from Hand to Hand,
 “ as bought or sold, till made appear tho-
 “ roughly manufactured, then fully dischar-
 “ ged.

I am now come to the 4th Article, which
 relates principally to poor People, chiefly Day
 Labourers, who whilst they are employed
 abroad themselves, get 40 or 50 Pounds of
 Wool at a Time, to employ their Wives and
 Children at home in Carding and Spinning,
 of which when they have 10 or 20 Pounds
 ready for the Clothier, they go to Market
 with it and there sell it, and so return home
 as fast as they can : But if this Scheme should
 take Place, every such poor Labourer or his
 Wife must go the Day before to the Register,
 and pay Two-pence for a Permit, and per-
 haps be Three or Four Hours employed in
 going to the Register, and coming back again :
 But this is not all, the common Way
 the poor Women in *Hampshire, Wiltshire, and*
Dorsetshire, and I believe in other Counties,
 have of getting to Market (especially in the
 Winter-time) is, by the Help of some Farmers
 Waggon, which carry them and their Yarn ;
 and as soon as the Farmers have set down their
 Corn in the Market, and baited their Horses,
 they return home, either the chief Servants
 staying

staying behind, or the Masters coming in the Market-time to sell the Corn. During the Time the Waggon's stop, the poor Women carry their Yarn to the Clothiers for whom they work ; then get the few Things they want, and return to the Inn to be carried home again : But if they must go before the Register, with the Person to whom they sell their Yarn to have it registred, the Farmers Waggon's will be gone away an Hour or two before ; and those poor Creatures, who will have many of them ten or twelve Miles home in bad Weather and bad Ways, will be left to perish on the Road ; or, if they get home, to be sure they must give up that Business, and consequently they and their Families come upon the Parish. This will be the Case as to those who live at some Distance from the Market : As to those who may live in or near the Market Town, there will be in Market-time 3 or 400 poor People, (chiefly Women) who will sell their Goods in about an Hour ; and then they must all go together, with those to whom they have sold them, before the Register ; and let any body judge what a Scene of Confusion here will be of 3 or 400 Women, all crying out and crowding which shall get at the Register first, in order to go about their Business : Many of them must stay several Hours with their Customers ; nay, it will be impossible for them all to be registred the same Day ; so that they must come again the

next :

next : The Consequence of which would be, that no such Thing could be sold in any Market in *England* : And what an Injury this would occasion to all Sorts of Persons, would require a Volume to particularize.

Article V.

“ *N. B.* Whereas several Worsted and Yarn
 “ Makers for Hose, Caps, and Crewils, &c.
 “ often sell it by the Ounce ; it is proposed
 “ that they shall make Oath once a Quarter
 “ before the Register, and three or more of
 “ their Parishioners who best know their
 “ Characters and Dealings, that to the best of
 “ their Knowledge, all the Wool they bought
 “ that Quarter, was and is to be manufactured
 “ thoroughly in these his Majesty’s Domini-
 “ ons ; and that such Oaths so taken, shall
 “ discharge the Duty aforesaid.”

This Article relates to the poorest of the People, who sell Worsted and Yarn by the Ounce : These poor Wretches are to be sworn four Times a Year, (of whom there is not one in Fourscore that would know what such an Oath meant.) But passing that over, they are to go before the Register four Times a Year ; this will be certainly so much Loss of Time to them, which they cannot well spare. But what shall every one of them do to *get three at least of the Parishioners to go along with them* ; Poor People cannot allow the Time, Rich People they will not dare to ask : So that it will be
 utterly

utterly impossible for them to comply with what they are enjoined to do.

Article VI.

“ No Foreigner, on any Pretence, if not a
 “ Subject and an Inhabitant of *Great Bri-*
 “ *tain or Ireland*, &c. to buy Wool, Worsted,
 “ or Yarn, on Pain of Forfeiture of the said
 “ Goods, and six Times the Value ; such Fo-
 “ reigner, being convicted before the Register
 “ and three Parishioners, to be imprisoned,
 “ the Penalty to be the Prize of the In-
 “ former.”

As to this Article, which prohibits Foreigners to buy Wool, &c. it is not worth while to say any Thing about it, any more than to the next, which relates to the *Justices* at the Quarter Sessions ; and provides more Business for them and their Clerks, than all the Justices in *England* could dispatch, if they had nothing else to attend. All this I pass over, as also the Articles about Masters and Owners of Ships bringing Wool, &c. from *Ireland*, and about more Work for the *Justices at their Quarter Sessions* ; in order to take Notice of two Defects in this Scheme of the most mischievous Consequence to the Whole. The first is, That there is no Allowance made any where for *Waste* in all the Progress of the Manufacture, from the shearing the Wool to the wearing the Cloth : Now it is very well known, that in all *Rough Wool* there must be

be allowed one third Part, or seven Pounds in every twenty Pounds, for Waste : Indeed in the finest Pasture, where it is all Maiden Down, the Waste is not so great ; but then in very Rough or Mossy, and in very Sandy and Bushy Pasture, it is much greater ; so that one Third is a *Medium* between both. Let us see then how this Matter will stand in Mr. *Webber's* Scheme.

The Farmer that is first registred is charged with twenty Crowns for each Score of Wool ; for this Score of Wool at Shearing Time, he received ten Shillings. The Wool-stapler that bought it afterwards, became charged in another Parish where it was worked up into Cloth, and in the Working there is a Waste of about Seven Pounds ; for which seven Pounds the Wool-stapler and Clothier between them, must pay the King or Mr. *Webber* and his Patentees seven Crowns, which is three Times and a Half as much as the Wool cost : Was not Mr. *Webber* aware of this Inconvenience in his Scheme ? He certainly was. But as he could not possibly find a Remedy for it, he chose to say nothing about it : The Reason why it is not possible to find a Remedy for this Defect in this Scheme is, That 40,000 Persons could not keep the Account of this Waste, if they were all paid ever so well to look after it. There must be *Persons appointed* to attend upon every Wool-stapler, Wool-comber, Carder, Spinner, and Weaver four or five Times each Working-Day in the Week,

to take an Account of the Pitch, Dirt, Sand, Moss, Pieces of Sticks, &c. which come out of the Fleece at the first breaking of it; and then to remove all that Filth, that it may not be accounted for again: And the same must be done as to the waste Wool that comes afterwards from the Comb, and the Card, and the Spinning Wheel and Loom; and also as to the Waste at the Fulling-Mill. This, it is easily seen, is impossible to be performed; and therefore I come to the other Defect in this Scheme, and that is, a Want of proper *Certainty as to the Buyers of Wool*. The first Sellers are well enough known, because they are Inhabitants in the Parishes where they are registred: But how shall it be known who the Buyers are? For Example; A Farmer at *Wilton* comes before the Register with a Person to whom he has sold a hundred Packs of Wool, who calls himself *Edward Jones*, Wool-stapler of *Taunton*; How shall the Register be satisfied that this *Jones* is not a Cheat? Must the Farmer or the Register take his Horse and ride 150 Miles to be informed of this Man, or must the Register take the Buyer's Word? Certainly his Word must be taken, or there will be no Trading in Wool at all: When the Buyer is charged, and has got his Wool, he carries it directly to the Sea Coast, and ships it for *France*; and if you send to *Taunton* after *Jones* the Wool-stapler, they know no such Person. The same Thing would happen, if any Buyer of Wool should personate another, or if the

Buyer

Buyer himself is a Beggar, not worth a Groat, and employed by one that is a Runner of Wool: So that after all, this infinite Expence and intolerable Hardship upon the Farmers and Manufacturers, upon the Rich and Poor, upon Trade and upon Land, this whole Scheme is perfectly ridiculous by reason of these Defects; neither can any Method be thought of to redress it, unless no Person should be allowed to buy a Weight of Wool of a Farmer, or Ten Pounds of Yarn in a Market, if the Buyers have not Witnesses ready to prove *who they are in the first Place*, and that their *Circumstances are answerable for the Obligation they enter into*. This is the Precaution directed by the 12th Article, so far as it relates to Owners of Ships; but if it shall be used in every Transaction relating to the Buying of Wool, Yarn, &c. the whole Trade will be at an End; and if this Method is not followed in all such Transactions, all the other Measures, however burthensome in every Respect, are useless. But should I animadvert upon all the Absurdities and Inconveniencies that flow from this notable Project, I should grow tedious to my Readers, and therefore shall trouble them only with one Observation more, upon the 11th, 12th and 13th Articles of the Scheme; by which it is evident that Mr. *Webber* is of Opinion the Parliament of *England* should encourage the Importation of Woollen manufactured Goods from *Ireland*.

His Words in Article 11 are, *That as many Ports be opened in England and Ireland,*
for

for exporting and importing Wool, Worsted, Yarn, OR ANY SPECIES OF WOOLLEN MANUFACTURED GOODS FROM IRELAND, for the Benefit of the fair Trader, as shall be thought requisite by the Wisdom of Parliament.

The same Thing is repeated in the 12th Article, where it is declared, That none but English Owners shall be allowed to freight *with Wool, Worsted, Yarn, OR ANY SPECIES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS FROM IRELAND.*

And in the 13th Article, where Provision is made for their being Registered; WOOLLEN MANUFACTURED GOODS FROM IRELAND are again mentioned.

It must be allowed that Mr. *Webber* has not yet declared, how many, or what particular Species of Woollen manufactured Goods he would have us import from *Ireland*. But whatever they may be, they must certainly interfere with some Branch or other of our own Manufactures; and it is left to the Manufacturers of *Great Britain* in general to judge, how much they are obliged to him for this Proposition.

Upon the whole therefore, one may venture to affirm, that of all the Dreams, all the Visions, all the wild Imaginations that ever seized the most addle-headed Projector's Brain, there never was any Thing so completely extravagant as this *Scheme* of Mr. *Webber's*.

And now I should have done with him, were it not that he has misrepresented the Causes of the Decay of our Woollen Manufacture after King *William's* and Queen *Anne's* Wars

Wars, and that it is not proper to let People remain misled by his wrong Account of this Matter.

Some of the Causes why our Woollen Manufactures flourished so much during the Wars, were these: In the first Place, the great Army we maintained of our own Troops, and who were all cloathed with our own Manufacture, occasioned a very great Consumption of this Commodity. Again, we had a great Body of Foreign Troops in our Pay, and the Princes of whom they were hired, having no Manufacturies of their own at that Time, usually cloathed those Soldiers, as well as their own Auxiliary Troops, with our Cloth, which was still a further Increase of the same Consumption of that Manufacture. Now at the Peace of *Ryswick*, and the Peace of *Utrecht*, all this ceas'd at once, except as to the small Number of Troops which we kept up. In a few Words, instead of cloathing Two hundred Thousand Men, we cloath'd but Eighteen Thousand. Is it not easily seen what a vast Alteration this must make in the Consumption of our Woollen Manufacture? But there was another Thing which added very much to our Misfortune in this Respect: A great deal of the Cloth which we furnished to the Foreign Princes was so bad, and at so high a Price, that tho' they winked at it during the War, whilst they received considerable Sums from us, yet when those Subsidies ceas'd, instead of coming to us

us for Cloth, as they us'd to do in former Times, they began to try if they themselves could not make as good Cloth for their Armies, as that which we furnished them with; and to this End they easily got many of our own Countrymen, who did not know what to do with themselves when the War was over, to settle in their Countries, at least long enough till they had taught others how to make such coarse Cloth as they wanted. Hence arose the great Manufacturies of Cloth in *Prussia, Germany, Denmark*, and elsewhere, which have been so very prejudicial to our Manufactures. To this must be added the vast Use of Callicoes brought from *India* stained, which has of late Years prevailed abroad; of White Callicoes stained or printed here and exported; and the Wear here of White Callicoes, *Irish, Scotch*, and other Linnens printed or stained, and Cottons; by which means the Consumption of Woollen Goods and Stuffs has greatly decreas'd. These are some very material Articles in the Decay of our Woollen Manufacturies since King *William's* and Queen *Anne's* Wars with *France*, which I believe Mr. *Webber* never thought of.

However, I would not have it inferr'd from hence, as if I was of Opinion, that our Wool from *England* and *Ireland* was not clandestinely exported in great Quantities to foreign Parts: I am fully perswaded that it is; and that other Nations, and in particular
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the *French*, are enabled, by working up their coarse Wool with that of *England* and *Ireland*, to trade and even undersell us at some Markets abroad, in a Variety of small Stuffs, where we formerly had the sole Vent of those Commodities ; for which Reasons there is the utmost Necessity that some Law, more effectual than any now in being, should be made, in order to put an End to a Practice so pernicious to this Country. There is nothing in the World more desirable, and I will venture to affirm, no body living wishes it more than I do ; nay, I will go so far as to declare, that a *Register* is the most likely Means to prevent the Exportation of our Wool to foreign Parts, if it can be properly put in Execution both in *England* and *Ireland* ; but then it must not be a Register that sets out with the Load of *Six or Seven Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year on the Land and Trade* of this Kingdom, and innumerable other grievous and destructive Circumstances. I have been inform'd, that a *Register* of a very different Nature was offer'd to the Government Twenty Years ago, and that a *Register* was propos'd even in Parliament the last Sessions but one, when a Bill for the Benefit of the Woollen Manufacture pass'd under the Conduct of those who are so injuriously treated by the *Draper* ; and even at the Instant I am now writing, I see that the House of Commons has come to a Resolution to address his Majesty, to direct the Lords Commis-

Commissioners for Trade and Plantations to prepare a Scheme for preventing our Wool (by a Register) from being carried abroad, to be laid before the Parliament at their next Meeting. How far the House may have been edified by the warm and wild Notions of Mr. *Webber*, (whose Conduct, poor Man, seems rather to deserve Pity than Reproach) in explaining the Execution of his Scheme at their Bar; and how much the Audience was enlightened by the Assistance of his notable Friend Mr. *London*, I must submit to the Judgment of those who had the Honour to be present at the Examination of this extraordinary Pair of *Projectors*.

I come now to the *Draper's* Pamphlet: He employs many Pages in the Beginning of it, to prove what no body ever questioned, namely, the great Advantage of Trade to all Nations, and to this in particular; and that of all Sorts of Manufactures, the Woollen is most beneficial to us. Who does not know this as well as this Writer? And has not the Person he principally aims his Satyr at, and one of his nearest Relations, shewn on all Occasions the greatest Forwardness to encourage our Manufactures, and to support our Woollen Trade? Who has had a greater Share in promoting the Bill to find a new Channel for our woollen Manufactures, by carrying on a Trade through *Russia* into *Persia*, which Queen *Elizabeth* several Times attempted, but in vain? Who,

I say, has done more towards bringing in this Bill, and who took more Pains in the House to carry it through, than those very Gentlemen? In the mean time, whilst they are using their utmost Endeavours to forward a Work that may prove so advantageous to our Woollen Manufacture, they are daily calumniated as Enemies to the Trade of the Kingdom.

After the *Draper's* tedious Declamation about Trade and the Woollen Manufacture in general, follow his Castles in the Air, his imaginary Computations that are built upon a false Foundation, upon Suppositions of what can never possibly happen, *if we could work up all the Wool we can raise, and find People to buy it at our own Prices, then we should get forty or fifty, or I know not how many Millions Yearly*; and so this *Draper* goes on with his Whimfies, and talks of Millions *Sterling*, as if a Million, more or less, was a meer Trifle. It would be an endless Labour to shew the Absurdities of all his Computations; I shall take Notice of the gross Error in the most material of them: He calculates the Quantity of Wool upon all the Sheeps Backs in *England*, by those sold in *Smithfield* Market, and those he computes to bear four Pounds of Wool one with another: Supposing this Computation to be right as to all the fat Sheep brought to *London*, how ridiculous is it to make a Comparison between them, and all the lean

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Sheep

Sheep all over the Kingdom, in particular between those and the Heath Croppers of *Bagshot*, and other such Deserts, which in *England* are not a few? I have heard this Matter debated amongst Persons perfectly Masters of the Subject, and the Dispute was not, whether every Sheep in *England*, reckoning one with another, bore four Pounds of Wool, but whether they should be computed at Two Pounds and a half, or at two Pounds promiscuously, and I cannot help inclining to the latter of these Opinions; and if this is a right Computation, then Twenty-one Millions of the *Draper's* Forty-two, vanish at once into Smoke; and if one Third of the Remainder must be deducted for Waste (as undoubtedly it must) the aforesaid Forty-two Millions are reduced to Fourteen. Let these two Instances suffice to shew the *Draper's* Abilities in Computation.

What follows in the *Draper's* Libel, where he pretends to give an Account of Mr. *Webber's* Application to his Majesty and his Council, and to the Parliament, is so audaciously criminal, that it would be dangerous to mention what he writes, tho' with a Design to refute it; therefore I must leave those Matters for other Persons to animadvert upon.

But now it is incumbent on me to make out what I mentioned at the Beginning of this Paper, where I charge the *Draper* with having, in a most impious manner, called God to witness to the greatest Falsities.

ties. Amongst many Instances of this Kind, I shall chuse out two or three. In his Title Page he has these Words, “ With a
 “ Narrative of the Steps taken by Mr. *Web-*
 “ *ber* for getting an Act of Parliament to
 “ confirm a CHARTER GRANTED HIM BY
 “ HIS MAJESTY NINE YEARS AGO FOR AN
 “ UNIVERSAL REGISTRY IN CHARTER.

This is Part of what the *Draper* calls *God to witness, that he writes upon the fullest Conviction.* Now what Conviction could he have, *That his Majesty granted Mr. Webber a Charter nine Years ago for an universal Registry in Charter?* Since in Fact his Majesty never granted any such Charter.

When the Petitions relating to this Affair were referred as usual to his Majesty’s Attorney General at that Time, (now the Lord High Chancellor) for him to consider of them, and make his Report thereupon, he did accordingly certify to his Majesty, after having had several of the Petitioners before him, as well as Mr. *Webber himself*, “ That the Woollen Manu-
 “ facture being the most beneficial and exten-
 “ sive of all the Manufactures of this King-
 “ dom, and the Business of the Wool-com-
 “ bers being a very material Article of that
 “ Trade, carried on by great Multitudes of
 “ People, spread over all Parts of *England*
 “ in Places very remote from one another,
 “ and in that Respect scarce possible to be
 “ reduced under one general Management;
 “ and no Experiment having hitherto been

“ made of putting any Branch of this im-
 “ portant Manufacture into a Corporation to
 “ extend throughout *England*, the attempt-
 “ ing whereof might be attended with Con-
 “ sequences which could not be foreseen, he
 “ was humbly of Opinion, that it was not
 “ adviseable for his Majesty to grant such
 “ Charter as was desired.” The unavoidable
 Consequence of this Report was, that a full
 Stop was put to all further Application for
 the desired Charter: But because it was ne-
 cessary that it should be said that his Majesty
 had granted that Charter, in order to affirm
 afterwards, that the Execution of it was de-
 layed by one particular Person, who preven-
 ted the Parliament from confirming it ; infi-
 nuating by such means, that he had the Go-
 vernment of the Parliament, and was the Au-
 thor of so excellent a Scheme’s having been
 so long deferr’d, to the inconceivable Da-
 mage of the Nation ; that there might be
 some seeming Foundation for so wicked and
 groundless an Accusation, this profligate Wri-
 ter invented the horrid Falsity abovementi-
 oned ; and this is accompanied by another
 equally abominable in Page 11. where the
Draper has the following Words.

“ It was the Woollen Trade that enabled
 “ us to support such a long War in King
 “ *William* and Queen *Anne*’s Reigns, and at
 “ the End of it to be richer than when we
 “ began it ; and that the Reason why the
 “ Woollen Trade was during that Time in
 “ so

“ *so flourishing a Condition, was, because*
 “ *France could not then have any of our un-*
 “ *manufactured Wool.*”

Where now could this Writer have the fullest Conviction of the Truth of this Paragraph, which is *as false as the Person he appeals to is true*? If this Writer had but looked into the Statute-Book, he would have found in the Preamble to an Act of Parliament made in the first Year of *William and Mary*, for the better preventing the Exportation of Wool, *That great Quantities of Wool were exported at that Time out of England and Ireland into France*; and the same Thing in divers other Acts in the Reigns of King *William* and Queen *Anne*, during the Wars with *France*: But supposing the *Draper* knew nothing of the Statute-Book, he could not but be acquainted with his Friend Mr. *Webber's* Letters, because he mentions them more than once. Now Mr. *Webber*, in one of his five Letters prefixed to his Scheme, says, (Page the 9th) not only *That the French had our Wool during Queen Anne's Wars with France*; but likewise gives a very particular Account of the stated regular Method they had of getting it, ‘by granting Passes, which were not to be produced, if the Ships fell into the Hands of Privateers, till they were arrived in some Harbour in *France*, for Fear lest they should have been *Fersey* or *Guernsey* Privateers’.

One Remark I cannot help making in
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this Place upon the tacit Encomium which the *Draper*, by this false Fact, bestows even upon King *William's* Reign as well as Queen *Anne's*, and at the same Time with what View he does it: The last palpable Lie which I produc'd from this Writer, was aim'd at the Person who has been the most distinguish'd for his long and faithful Services to the *Illustrious House of Hanover*; this second detestable Falshood is aim'd at the *whole Royal Family* itself, by pointing out to the People, that the Day of that Family's succeeding to the Throne of these Kingdoms, was the Day from whence this Calamity (one of the greatest that can befall this Nation) ought to bear its Date. But to proceed with this Writer, it appears from what I have just now produc'd out of Mr. *Webber's* Letters, that when the *Draper* says positively and plainly, that the *French* could not have any of our Wool unmanufactured, during the Wars of King *William* and Queen *Anne* with *France*, he speaks as fully against his own Knowledge of the Truth, at the same Time that he appeals to Heaven, as it is possible for a Man to do; and consequently, what an abandoned Wretch this must be, I leave every impartial Reader to judge; and in particular what Sort of Credit ought to be given to what he asserts in Page 18. namely, *That an Officer belonging to the Customs had own'd (to Mr. Webber) more than once, and with great Concern, That he was*
obliged.

obliged to go on board, and see Wool shipp'd, which he knew to be bound for France : This Piece of secret History was certainly forg'd on the same Anvil with those Falsehoods that I last mentioned ; for had any such Thing ever really happened, it cannot be doubted, but that a Person of so much Zeal for the Good of his Country, and of so publick a Spirit as Mr. *Webber*, would immediately have acquainted his Majesty's Commissioners of the Customs, with the Name of the Officer that had reflected in so insolent a Manner upon them, and this Affair could not but have been searched to the Bottom, and the Publick must have been informed of every Particular relating to a Thing of such a Nature.

But if it may be justly affirmed, That the *Draper*, in the Instances just mentioned, has outdone all the Distributors of Falsehoods that have ever yet appeared, there is one Instance still behind in which he may be said to have outdone even himself, and that is, in Pages 23 and 24 of his Pamphlet, where he endeavours to impose upon the People, *that it has been* STIPULATED *that France might have as much of our Wool as they pleased.* Which ought the most to be wondred at, the *Ab-surdity* or the *Malice* of the Publisher of this Article ? For the Authority upon which this Calumny is grounded, is nothing but a Letter from a Journeyman Wool-comber, who went away from *England* to work in the Woollen Trade in *France*, in which
Letter

Letter he acquaints his Friend with this Matter, upon the Information of Count — By leaving a Blank for the Name of this Count, our Author would have it taken for granted that he could have named him, but chose to leave it to his Readers to supply the Name, not doubting they would of Course suppose that Count to be necessarily a Person of a publick Character ; for no other Count could have such a Secret in his Power : Now let any one believe, if he can, that a Count of so eminent Distinction as this must be, would commit such a Secret as this to a Renegade Manufacturer. But it is to be observed that the Word *stipulate*, implies a Matter debated and settled by some formal Instrument of State ; and if ever any such Thing had existed, could it possibly have been concealed from so many Persons, whom we know to be so diligent, so eager in Searches of this Nature ? And indeed could this single Fact have been made out, how much better would it have answered a particular Purpose, than a long Bead-roll of Perplexed, and Political Transactions ; in some of which the Person aimed at, was but very little, in others, not at all concerned : If such a traititious Act as this (for such I may call it) could have been justly laid to his Charge, he would not, supported by Innocence, have stood so stedfast and unmoved, nor have been able to have baffled all the Attacks of his Enemies in the Day of Accusation.

